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Maritime Strategy: Enabling Commerce

"Our responsibility to the tax payers of this great nation is to provide maritime security on the approaches to this country, the strategic lines of communication on the maritime domain, and in strategic straits and there are many of those, frankly, in this region."

-- Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander, Pacific Fleet

The maritime domain carries the lifeblood of the global system

70% of the world is water, 80% of the world lives on or near the coastline and 90% of the world's trade sails across it. Any disruption to the global system has a direct impact on the American way of life.

- Protection of the world's sea lanes is paramount in an era when foreign political crises, terrorists, smugglers and pirates may pose a more imminent threat to the flow of seaborne trade than traditional warfare.
- As examples of the global challenge, CNE-C6F's top threats to the maritime economic system include unregulated or illegal fishing (\$1 billion/year in sub-Saharan Africa [Department For International Development - UK]), illegal oil bunkering in the Niger Delta (\$3 million/day [Human Rights Watch, BBC, Shell, others]), trafficking in humans, weapons, drugs and wildlife (\$32 billion/year industry in humans [Int'l Labor Org]) and piracy (120 actual or attempted attacks in Africa for 2007 [IMB]).

Solving the global challenge of Maritime Domain Awareness

- Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) is a technology and training initiative to aid commanders by providing near real-time situational awareness on commercial shipping to help ensure safe passage for merchant and naval vessels.
- As Navy assets depend on connectivity for sharing information, NETWARCOM's tailored Maritime Operations Center (MOC) enables 24/7/365 communications around the world, ashore and at sea. An integral part of the MOC is the Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command, which monitors Navy networks to thwart intrusions and exploitation, and ensures free flow of information in the maritime environment.
- Through cooperative hydrographic surveys, Naval Oceanography's Fleet Survey Team (FST) provides safety of navigation information for Navy ships, commercial shipping and other maritime vessels. FST recently completed surveys in West Africa as part of Africa Partnership Station, raising awareness of the need for updated charts and exposing participating nations to tools and techniques required to meet today's standards.

Enabling the free flow of legitimate commerce through Maritime Security Operations (MSO)

Forward deployed maritime forces provide security to enhance the U.S. and global economies.

- USS Hawaii, the nation's newest Virginia-class submarine, is underway in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility conducting counter-illicit trafficking operations.
- For sixty years, 5th Fleet operations have reassured regional partners of the Coalition's commitment to security. Combined Maritime Forces comprises three task forces and about 20 nations working together to deny the use of the sea for terror from the Strait of Hormuz, to the Suez Canal; from Pakistan to Kenya.

Key Messages

- World prosperity and security depend on free use of the seas. Markets crave security, and our vital interests are best served by a peaceful global system.
- Our forces build trust and confidence through collective efforts with international partners in support of our mutual interests.
- The global economy requires free flow of commerce.

Facts & Figures

- The Los Angeles Customs district (including area ports and airport) is the nation's largest based on two-way trade, totaling \$293.9 billion in 2005.
- 51% of the world's fish comes from developing countries.
- The global drug trade is \$300 billion/year [UN].
- Get recent leadership messages on maritime security by [podcast](#) and Daily News Updates [here](#) and [here](#).